Press release

Met Office unveils plans for its new home in Exeter

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Two consortia, contesting to win a £60m plus contract to build and operate the Met Office's new accommodation in Exeter, have submitted planning applications for the site the Met Office expects to occupy as its new home in 2003. The applications for the Hill Barton Site, just off Honiton Road in Exeter were submitted to Exeter City Council today.

The timescales that the Met Office are working to mean that both consortia need to obtain planning permission on each of their designs before the successful team is chosen in May. Work should commence on site soon after contracts are signed in the summer. The two bidding consortia will submit their full tenders to the Met Office at the end of the month. The Met Office will not be able to announce the winning consortia until these tenders have been evaluated.

Speaking in Exeter today, Steve Noyes, the Met Office's Director of Relocation, said: "I am pleased with the results of the hard work that both design teams [M-Logic and Stratus] have put into their proposals for our new accommodation. The Met Office supports both the designs and is keen to see planning consent being given to them. We believe whichever building we choose, it will become a landmark for the city, and maintain the Met Office's position as a world-leading centre for environmental science."

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